



March 2011 Stillwater Voter

Kirsten Tautfest, President

A Publication of Stillwater, Oklahoma,
League of Women Voters

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SLWV Calendar*

*This newsletter is supported by member dues. Complimentary copies are provided to interested parties. If you are interested in joining the League, please contact **Helen Jordan** at 372-6420.*

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Date/Time	Place	Description
March	All across the country	WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH
March 8th (Tues.) 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Freddie Paul's Restaurant 1707 E. 6th	SLWV Noon Meeting: "A New Housing Opportunity in Stillwater - Oak Creek" Speakers: Kay Stewart and Pat Darlington (Contact Person: Nancy Andrews)
March 14th (Mon.) 7 to 9 p.m.	Home of Avis Rambo 706 S. Gray	SLWV Book Discussion: <i>The Lacuna</i> by Barbara Kingsolver (Contact Person: Deanna Homer) NOTE CHANGE OF PLACE!
March 17th (Thurs.) 7 p.m.	Stillwater Public Library Board Room	SLWV Board Meeting (Contact Person: Kirsten Tautfest)
March 13th to 19th	Across the country	Sunshine Week! Promoting the Freedom of Information act and openness in government at all levels
March 22nd (Tues.) 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Freddie Paul's Restaurant 1707 E. 6th	SLWV Discussion: Dr. Tony Shakley, Environmental Issues Today (Contact Person: Nancy Andrews)
March 22nd (Tues.) 7 to 8 p.m.	City Council Chamber Room	SLWV Forum for City Council Seats 3 and 4 Televised on the local cable channel 23 (Contact Person: Pat Jaynes)
March 23rd (Wed.) 10 a.m. to 8p.m. March 24th 9 a.m. to 4p.m.	Tulsa Marriott Southern Hills E. 71st	Oklahoma Minority Aging Conference "Sailing through the Waves of Change" Registration at 8 a.m. Wednesday Visit our website for link to conference brochure and registration information.
March 27th (Sun.)	Local cable TV channel 23	Re-broadcast of the Forum for City Council Seats 3 and 4
March 30th (Wed.)	State Capitol Building	LGBT Equality Day at the Capitol
April 5th (Tues.) 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.	Local voting precincts in Stillwater	Election for Stillwater City Council Seats 3 and 4 VOTE!!!

*League-sponsored items are in bold.

Calendar continued

April 21st (Thurs.) 6 p.m.	Elks Lodge Ballroom E. McElroy	SLWV Annual Meeting Potluck Dinner beginning at 6 p.m. followed by the annual business meeting Look in upcoming Voter supplement for proposed budget, agenda and minutes from 2010. (Contact Person: Board members)
April 22nd (Fri.)	Across the country	EARTH DAY!
May 3rd (Tues.) 7 p.m. May 4th (Wed.) 8 a.m. to noon 1 to 5 p.m.	Stillwater Public Library Rescheduled from February!	Stillwater Global Affairs Forum Tuesday Evening - presentation by Mark Elam, "Human Trafficking" Free Training Session on Friday, Registration required. 372-3633, ext. 106 or www.orcpi.com/training/training.cgi (Contact Person: Public Library)
May 10 to 12 (Tues. to Thurs.)	Embassy Suites, Norman, OK	Oklahoma Conference on Aging - Real World, Real Aging Visit our website for further information.

Banquet report — Pam Fry's talk

Dr. Pam Fry, Associate Provost and Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Education at Oklahoma State University spoke to the annual banquet of the Stillwater League of Women Voters about "the 21st Century Challenges for Education." As the former Dean of the College of Education at OSU she is very familiar with the issues in education at the K-12 level and in higher education, as the college prepares future teachers.

A key theme to Dr. Fry's presentation was relevance in education. 'Relevant,' is defined as bearing upon or connected with the matter at hand. The question becomes 'what is relevant for today's students?' In the past, the role of the teacher was to provide information and develop the skills needed for the learning process. With the computer age, providing information is no longer the main role of the professor or teacher, nor is the textbook in hand the sole source of information. Students can access on-line information in abundance and take on-line courses and with self-direction complete a course or educate themselves.

Howe and Strauss have described the 'millennial' generation as having 7 core traits. The millennial's see themselves, and others see them as: special, sheltered, confident, team-oriented, conventional, pressured and achieving. So a traditional academic degree program might not be embraced by them. They may want to design their own degree program and it may be in a direction for a job or profession we currently are unaware of. The college freshmen of today will retire in 2060 and in those years between graduation and retirement they will have 15 or more distinctly different jobs. Most of those jobs do not even exist today; Dr. Fry gave several examples.

Upon the conclusion of her presentation, Dr. Fry fielded several questions. It seemed obvious to those in attendance that the future of education will be hard to predict and certain to be far different than current teacher education curriculum.

—Kay Murphy



Banquet report — Silent Auction and more

Forty-nine Leaguers and their guests attended and heard Dr. Pam Fry's talk. The lunch box decorations were masterminded by Joyce Cox and Kay Murphy. Thanks to Joyce for the chocolate and apples on the table to complement the lunchboxes and other centerpiece items. Kay also contributed some of her own funds toward the centerpiece displays. Many compliments were received regarding the banquet programs designed by Kirsten Tautfest. Also, the basket for the G.E.D. scholarship fund collected \$60.00. This combined with \$55 collected earlier will help persons in need by helping them to earn their G.E.D. certificate. Currently, each \$30 contribution helps one person get closer to his/her dream.

The monies are still coming in from the silent auction. So far, Alice has reported that the auction raised \$794.50 from the silent auction items. Pat Jaynes will be hosting 17+ in her abode for her March soiree. John is busying catching fish for all who bought. It was reported that Gerri Nelson's baked goods were delicious. Thank you to all who helped set up and manage the auction. Thank you to Alice Richardson for her accounting brain. We could not have done it without her.

—Kirsten Tautfest



Legislative priorities of the national League:

LWVUS Legislative Priorities for 2011 (NEW) adopted at a recent board meeting:

Clean Air Defense; Health Care Defense; Money in Elections (campaign finance reform); and Voter Registration and Election Administration. The Legislative Watch List* is as follows: CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women); Climate Change; Ethics; Immigration; and Safe Drilling and Mining ("Fracking").
*The Watch List means that if an opportunity arises on these issues and does not interfere with action on an advocacy priority, the LWVUS may take action if it appears we can make an impact.

The Board discussed many issues and the responses from members suggesting Legislative Priorities. The decisions were made based on what issues are likely to come before the 112th Congress, the opportunities to make an impact, program decisions made at the 2010 Convention, member interest and resources available to manage these priorities effectively. The Board reviews these priorities throughout the year, making changes if warranted.

ANNUAL MEETING

The next issue of the Voter you will receive will be the "Annual Meeting Supplement." The Annual meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 21, 2011 at 6:00 PM at the Stillwater Elks Lodge Ballroom (use East entrance & lot). As per tradition, the dinner will be pot luck. Board members will supply paper goods and tablecloths. Drinks will be water, iced tea, or coffee. You may also get something from the full bar, if you would like.

Please be sure to bring your annual meeting supplement with you to the meeting. To cut down on paper waste, we will not be printing any extra copies. If you are able to arrive early to help with set up, please contact Kirsten at 405-612-8558 or just stop by shortly after 4:00 PM the day of the meeting.

—Kirsten Tautfest

V o t e r S e r v i c e u p d a t e :

The voter service committee met and compiled the questions for the city council candidates. Deanna Homer e-mailed them to The NewsPress and the Perkins and Stillwater Journals, and also to the public library, which set up a nice display of them. Pat Jaynes scheduled the forum, which will be March 22nd @7:00 in the council room at the city hall.

—Nelda Sander

Book Club Report**ATTENTION!!**

There has been a change in the meeting place for the March 14th Book Club. It will be at Avis Rambo's home, 706 S. Gray St., at 7:00 p.m.

Remember you are supposed to be sending suggestions for book titles and authors for next year's review. We will discuss these in March and make selections in April. You can send them by email to John: zooljw@netscape.net or call me at 377-3797. Beth Thornton

February's book.

Members of the SLWV's book club were very impressed with "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" by Rebecca Skloot. Skloot spent a decade researching the book and spending a lot of time with Henrietta Lack's family.

The book brings up many questions about medical research, the science of cells and cell division, and communication between patient, and their family and doctors and scientists.

Then there is the ethical question, should scientists and pharmaceutical companies make millions of dollars from one person's cells – without her knowledge – and her family continues to be so poor they can't

afford health insurance.

Read the book – it makes you think!

March Book Synopsis

The book for the March 14 meeting is *The Lacuna* by Barbara Kingsolver.

In her most accomplished novel, Barbara Kingsolver takes us on an epic journey from the Mexico City of artists Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo to the America of Pearl Harbor, FDR, and J. Edgar Hoover. *The Lacuna* is a poignant story of a man pulled between two nations as they invent their modern identities.

Born in the United States, reared in a series of provisional households in Mexico – from a coastal island jungle to 1930s Mexico City – Harrison Shepherd finds precarious shelter but no sense of home on his thrilling odyssey. Life is whatever he learns from housekeepers who put him to work in the kitchen, errands he runs in the streets, and one fateful day, by mixing plaster for famed Mexican muralist Diego Rivera. He discovers a passion for Aztec history and meets the exotic, imperious artist Frida Kahlo, who will become his lifelong friend. When he goes to work for Lev Trotsky, an exiled political leader fighting for his life, Shepherd inadvertently casts his lot with art and revolution, newspaper headlines and howling gossip, and a risk of terrible violence.

M e m b e r s h i p u p d a t e :

There are no new members to report.

We especially need younger members. Remember, it is all of our responsibility to recruit and help retain members. One way to get new persons interested in LWV is to invite them as guests to our meetings and potlucks. I will provide you with applications or member information materials if needed.

—Helen Jordan, membership chair



FACTS FOR VOTERS

Copies of Facts are available for you, or for you to leave some copies anyplace you want. Even though we didn't have many banks support us financially, perhaps your bank would be willing to have some on display. I will bring some to the March 8th meeting.

—Kay Murphy

“Women Behind Bars: Oklahoma Incarcerated Women and Their Children”

Dr. Susan Sharp presented the results of her research on incarcerated women at the OSU Arts and Humanities Lecture Series, Wed. Feb. 23rd at 2 p.m. Dr. Sharp is a professor of women's studies and sociology at OU. Although she has been conducting various studies for several years, these results were from the 2009 study. She interviewed prisoners, their children, and the caregivers of the children.

If I had had time to write down all of the statistics for her 301 women interviewees you would find nothing surprising. Less than a high school education, predominantly white, a high ACE score – which related to emotional, sexual, and physical abuse in their backgrounds, 85% had children, etc. etc. One discouraging statistic after another. As you know, drug offenses were the vast majority of reasons they ended up in prison.

Dr. Sharp's undergraduate student (Amini??) also played her videotape of interviews with incarcerated women, some of their children, and the head of the Girl Scouts Behind Bars program sponsored by the Magic Empire Council of the U.S. The video had pictures of the inside of the prison, the beautician area, laundry area, the yard where the mothers and children meet and other parts of the prison environment. Whereas Dr. Sharp's information was very factual and straightforward, even though she gave examples of some of the answers, the videotape definitely worked on the emotions. The children were devastated when

they had to leave their mothers after the visitation day. Children are children no matter what the situation or lifestyle.

The study also looked at the caregivers of the children and the problems of these children. What I found interesting was how hard the incarcerated women tried to keep their children away from involvement with any state agency. They wanted the child 'out of the system.' Consequently the children were with: the child's father, the mother of the incarcerated woman, the grandmother of the prisoner, the children's paternal family, and last, foster care. The foster care system did not absorb all of these children. The children's problems were what you might expect – depression, bad grades, drug use, rejection and bullying from their peers, etc.

There were recommendations by the incarcerated women, by the caregivers, and unfortunately I couldn't write fast enough. Some of those we have heard before, for instance, easier access and less expensive telephone calls so children could talk to their mother's more and maintain the connection.

Margaret Ewing and I attended and I can't really report anything positive or hopeful about the talk. It supports factually all we have heard before. Where is the hope for the future?

—Kay Murphy

CANDIDATE FORUM

The forum for the City Council candidates will be held Tuesday, March 22nd 7 to 8 p.m. in the Council Room in City Hall. All the final candidates for Seats 3 and 4 will be present: Seat 3, Gibbs and Hopkins; Seat 4, Dougherty and Scott. If the March 1st primary results in a 51% vote for someone, there will be no Seat 4 candidates at the forum. The forum has the usual format; Gladeen Allred will be the moderator and Kirsten Taufest will be the timer. League volunteers are needed to pass out cards and pencils and screen questions. Please let Deanna, Pat or Nelda know if you can help.

The forum will be televised on channel 23 and rebroadcast on Sunday afternoon March 27th. The time is not set but is usually 2 p.m.

—Kay Murphy

Oklahoma legislative bills of interest

HB1053 moves school elections to November general. Visit: http://webserver1.lsb.state.ok.us/2011-12HB/HB1053_int.rtf

This will help turnout, perhaps? Is it something we can get on board with supporting as a League, locally at least? Kirsten would like your feedback.

The Public Financing bill is **HB 1537** by Morrisette. He wants to call it "Voter-Owned Elections." Please help spread the word.

These relate to adolescent health and sex education:

HB 1195 - Author: Rep. Jeannie McDaniel.
HB 1195 would require the board of education to provide age-appropriate instruction in human growth and development and ensure that all curricula and materials are age-appropriate and medically accurate.

HB 1272 - Author: Rep. Jeannie McDaniel.
This bill would implement the Compassionate Assistance for Rape Emergencies (CARE) Act. The CARE Act would require the State Department of Health to make information available concerning emergency

contraception, as well as requiring the Department to monitor compliance of the CARE Act.

SB 37 - Author: Sen. Jim Wilson.
SB 37 would mandate local school boards to ensure sex education material is medically accurate; defines medical accuracy and provides guidelines.

SB 39 - Author: Sen. Jim Wilson.
This bill would ensure that pharmacies must dispense contraceptive drugs and devices; clarifies the pharmacy's right to refusal, and allows notification of a customer's rights.

SB 491 - Author: Sen. Connie Johnson.
SB 491 would implement the Compassionate Assistance for Rape Emergencies (CARE) Act; requiring hospitals to provide victims of alleged rape incidents with information regarding emergency contraception.

SB 535 - Author: Sen. Connie Johnson.
This bill would establish the "Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Act"; requiring schools to provide students with instruction regarding human sexuality and safety methods and concerns barring parental objection to comprehensive education.



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF STILLWATER**

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